

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (**GEAR UP**) is a federal program designed to provide early intervention services to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

Your **GEAR UP** award is provided to help cover your educational cost; however, in order to retain eligibility you must:

- Enroll at least half time at a participating Michigan degree-granting college.
- For renewal, meet institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy for scholarship continuation.
- You are responsible to keep us updated when you change your address, telephone number, email address, or school. *"If we cannot contact you, we cannot award you."*



If you have questions, call toll-free:

Student Scholarships and Grants
Bureau of State and Authority Finance

P.O. Box 30462
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 1-888-4-GRANTS (1-888-447-2687)

Fax: 517-241-5835

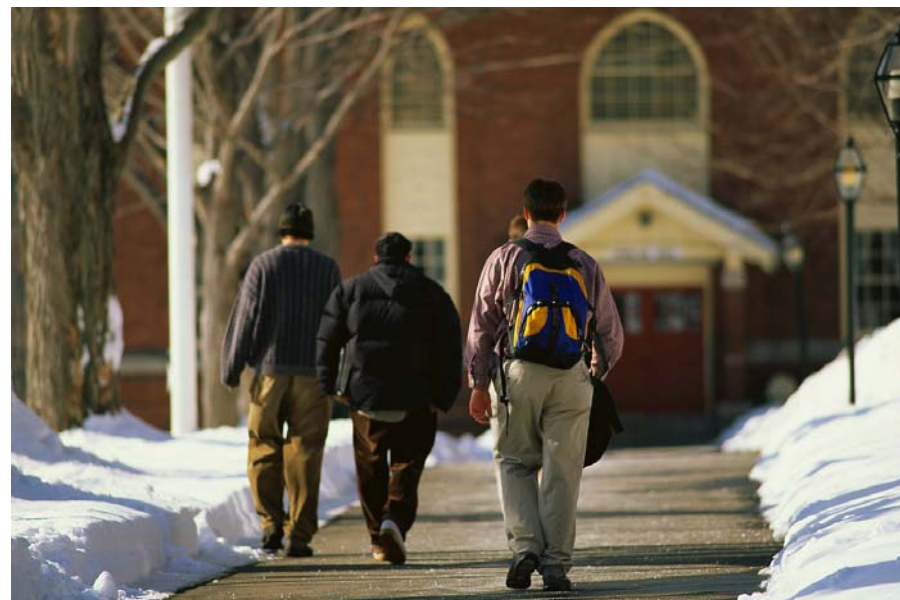
Email: SSG@michigan.gov

www.michigan.gov/ssg



Going to College can be Overwhelming

**Tips on how to be successful
in college.**



"I wish I knew then what I know now; it would have saved me a lot of money and headaches."



Registering for College

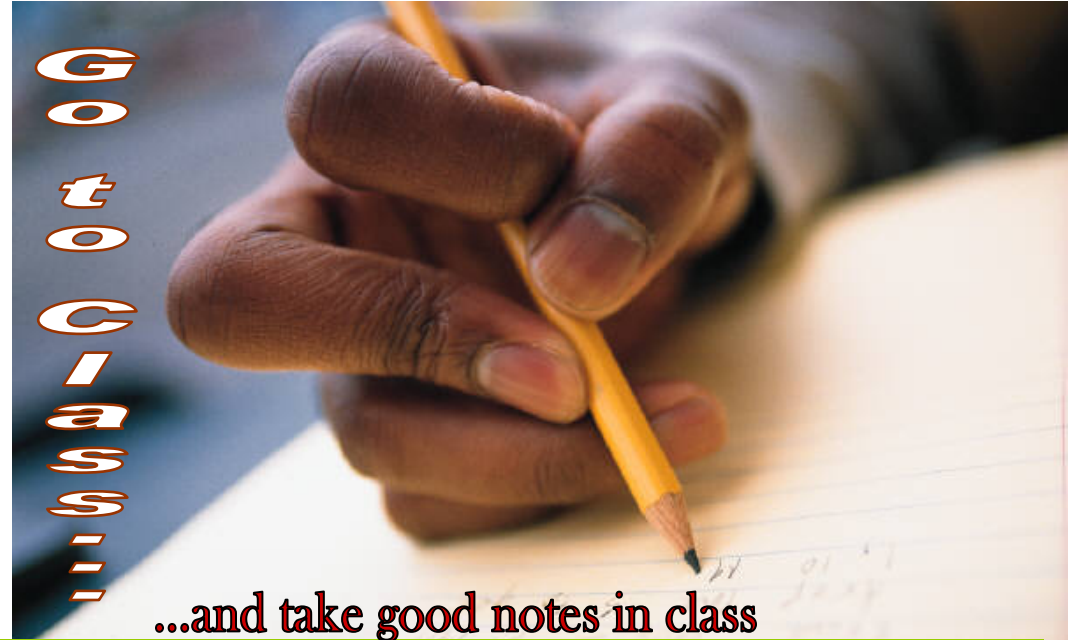
Things you need to know

FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the official form used to apply for aid from all federal student aid programs. The FAFSA must be completed each year for students entering or returning to college. The deadline for Michigan for the FAFSA to be received at the federal processor is **March 1** (www.fafsa.gov). Since schools receive submitted FAFSAs, make sure the school you plan to attend is listed.

Award Notification

In this electronic age, most schools post financial aid awards, class registration, grades, and billing on their secured Web site. Students are required to setup a personal password in order to access their college online account. Occasionally the school will send an email notice encouraging the student to check their online account; *but it is the student's responsibility to monitor their account regularly.*



...and take good notes in class

"It's not how fast you complete the race, but what you gain in the process."

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Each school is required to have a written Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy. The policies monitor the number of credit hours attempted to those completed. SAP is the level of academic advancement required of students by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, to receive federal student aid. How well you do in class, along with the number of credit hours completed versus the number of hours attempted is very important. ***You have the right to appeal; therefore, you should know your institution's appeal policy.***



"Going to college is not enough; you must maintain your grades in order to stay in college."



Maintain good grades

Help is Available!

Going to college requires a lot of work, but help is available. Each college offers some of the following:

- Tutoring assistance
- Counseling/resource centers
- Academic advisers
- Career explorations
- Library services

As a student, you have access to a wealth of information and resources...*take advantage of what is available.*

Manage your time wisely!

Develop coping strategies for the demands of student life. Develop a plan to finish school on time.

- Plan your program of study; set realistic goals.
- Consult an adviser in order to stay on the right track.
- Stay focused on your educational goals.
- Seek help from class instructors.
- Do not procrastinate; your education is an investment in yourself.